



Press Release

SUPREME COURT CONFIRMATION CENTER

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LEADING DEMOCRATS ISSUE VERDICT ON JOHN ROBERTS: “SUPERB QUALIFICATIONS”

While Senate Democrats Hesitate To Praise Supreme Court Nominee John Roberts, Leading Democrats Across The Nation Laud Roberts’ “Integrity,” “Impeccable Credentials,” And “Intellect”

Leon Panetta – Former Congressman And Chief Of Staff To President Bill Clinton – Praised Roberts’ “Fair-Mindedness” And “High Integrity.” PANETTA: “[I]t is a pretty solid appointment. He has a reputation for fair-mindedness. He has high integrity. He has been respected by members of the bar from every part of the political spectrum. He’s a conservative.” (Fox’s “Fox News Live,” 7/20/05)

➤ **Panetta Pointed To Roberts’ “Good Reputation” And Strong Academic Background.** PANETTA: “In this situation they have picked somebody who has a good reputation. He was top in his class at Harvard and Harvard Law School. He has a lot of respect. He is low key. He is not somebody who is a firebrand. From all of those indications, as I said, I think that you’re looking at a pretty solid nominee.” (Fox’s “Fox News Live,” 7/20/05)

Former Gore-Lieberman Campaign Chairman Tony Coelho Says Roberts Has “Impeccable Credentials.” COELHO: “[I] think as far as the pick, a very smart, very good political pick. I don’t think it will be that controversial really unless during the questions something comes up. ... I think that he has, Roberts has impeccable credentials. Let’s see what the hearing process does now, and if he goes through that hearing process, answers those questions, I think it will be more like a Ginsburg appointment than anything else.” (Fox News’ “Fox News Live,” 7/20/05)

Democrat Strategist Julian Epstein Said Roberts’ Belief In Judicial Restraint Is In The Tradition Of Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter. EPSTEIN: “I’m in a bit of a box here, because I’ve been saying on television for the last couple weeks that I think of all of the potential selections the president could make, John Roberts is probably the best. He is certainly a brilliant choice politically by this president. He is clearly in the tradition, in the conservative tradition of a, say, Felix Frankfurter, in the sense that he believes in judicial restraint.” (CNN’s “Your World Today,” 7/20/05)

Former Gore-Lieberman 2000 Attorney David Boies Praised Roberts'

Temperament And Character. BOIES: "John Roberts is a brilliant lawyer, a brilliant judge. He is a very careful judge ... I would agree with what the president said earlier. He is a decent man. I think everybody who knows him likes him." (MSNBC's "Scarborough Country," 7/19/05)

- **Boies Predicted Roberts Will Be Confirmed With A Filibuster-Proof Majority.** SCARBOROUGH: "David, from you first, is George Bush going to get the 60 votes he needs to get his nominee an up or down vote on the floor?" BOIES: "Yes." (MSNBC's "Scarborough Country," 7/19/05)

Al Gore Attorney And Harvard Law Professor Lawrence Tribe Has "A Strongly Favorable Predisposition" To Roberts' Nomination. TRIBE: "I've known him for a number of years. I've admired him. ... I start with an open mind and a strongly favorable predisposition." (NBC's "NBC News Special Report," 7/19/05)

Kendell Coffey, A Former U.S. Attorney Who Represented Al Gore In The 2000 Recount, Described Roberts As "Very, Very Talented." COFFEY: "This is a very, very talented, very conservative man who, from the standpoint of the president's long-term philosophy, probably represents the strongest choice possible." (MSNBC's "Countdown," 7/19/05)

Tom Strickland, Former Senate Candidate In Colorado, Believes Roberts Is "Superbly Qualified" And Praised His "Integrity." "Strickland ... acknowledged that Roberts, a Republican, 'is of a different affiliation and political orientation,' yet 'is superbly qualified and a gifted lawyer.' 'I see the world differently than John on a number of issues, but he is widely hailed for his intellect, integrity and talent,' Strickland said. 'If you set aside partisan filters, you have to acknowledge that this is a person of superb qualifications to serve on the highest court.'" (Jeffrey Leib, "Dem Strickland Sees Roberts As 'First-Rate,'" *Denver Post*, 7/20/05)

- **Strickland Said He Would Tell Sen. Ken Salazar (D-Colo.) That Roberts Is A "First-Rate" Candidate For The Supreme Court.** "The president has done well to go to the top cadre. ... Were I in the U.S. Senate, I would be inclined to be very favorably disposed to confirmation,' Strickland said, adding that, given the opportunity, he'd tell Colorado's Democratic Sen. Ken Salazar that Roberts is a 'first-rate' candidate for the court." (Jeffrey Leib, "Dem Strickland Sees Roberts As 'First-Rate,'" *Denver Post*, 7/20/05)